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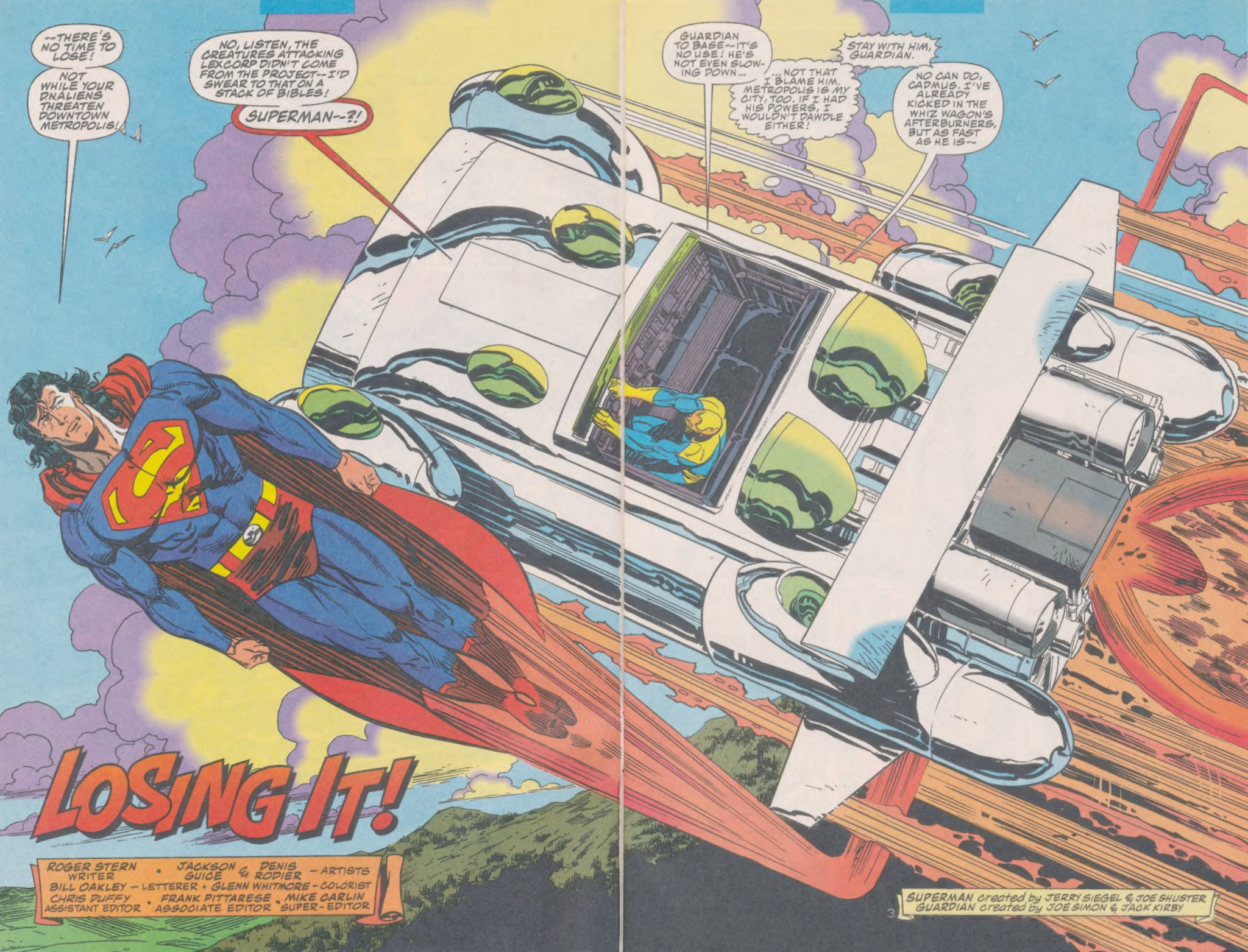
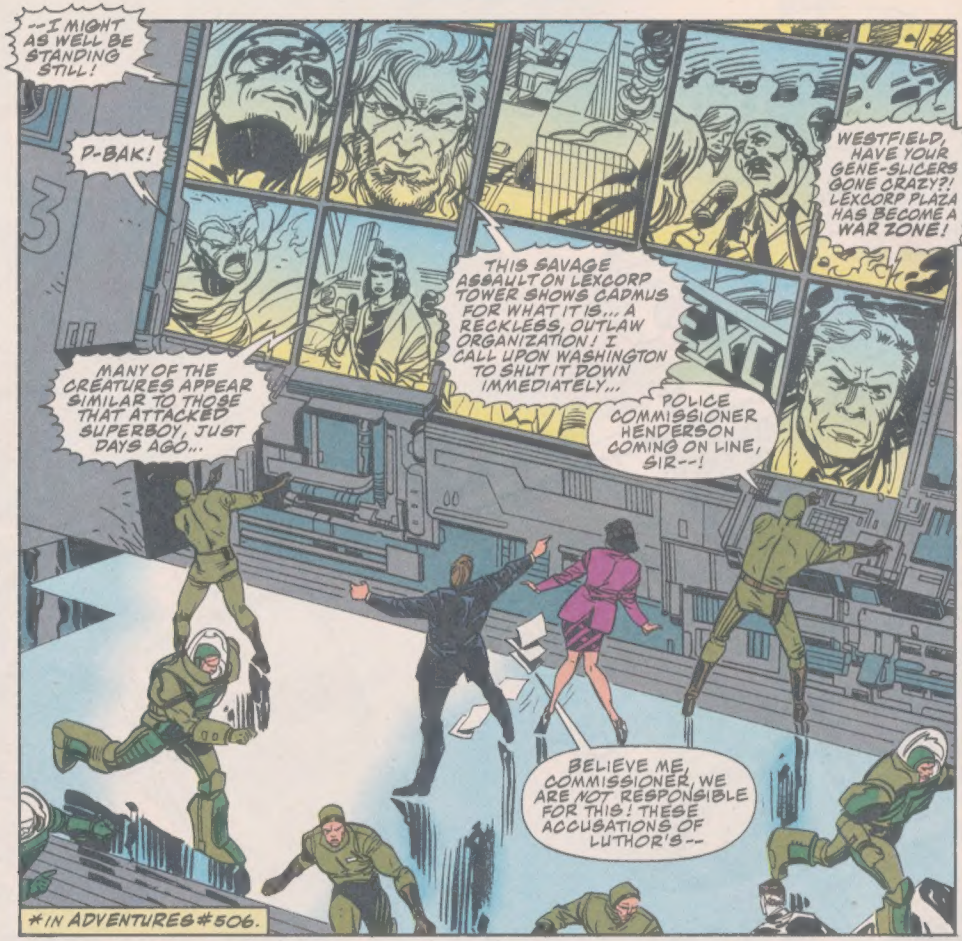
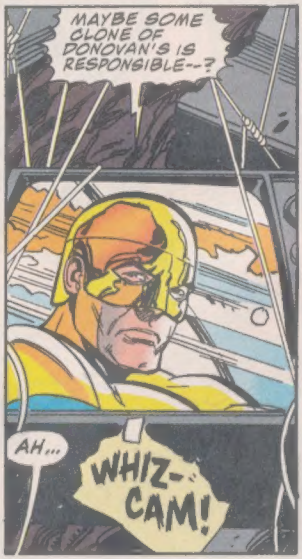
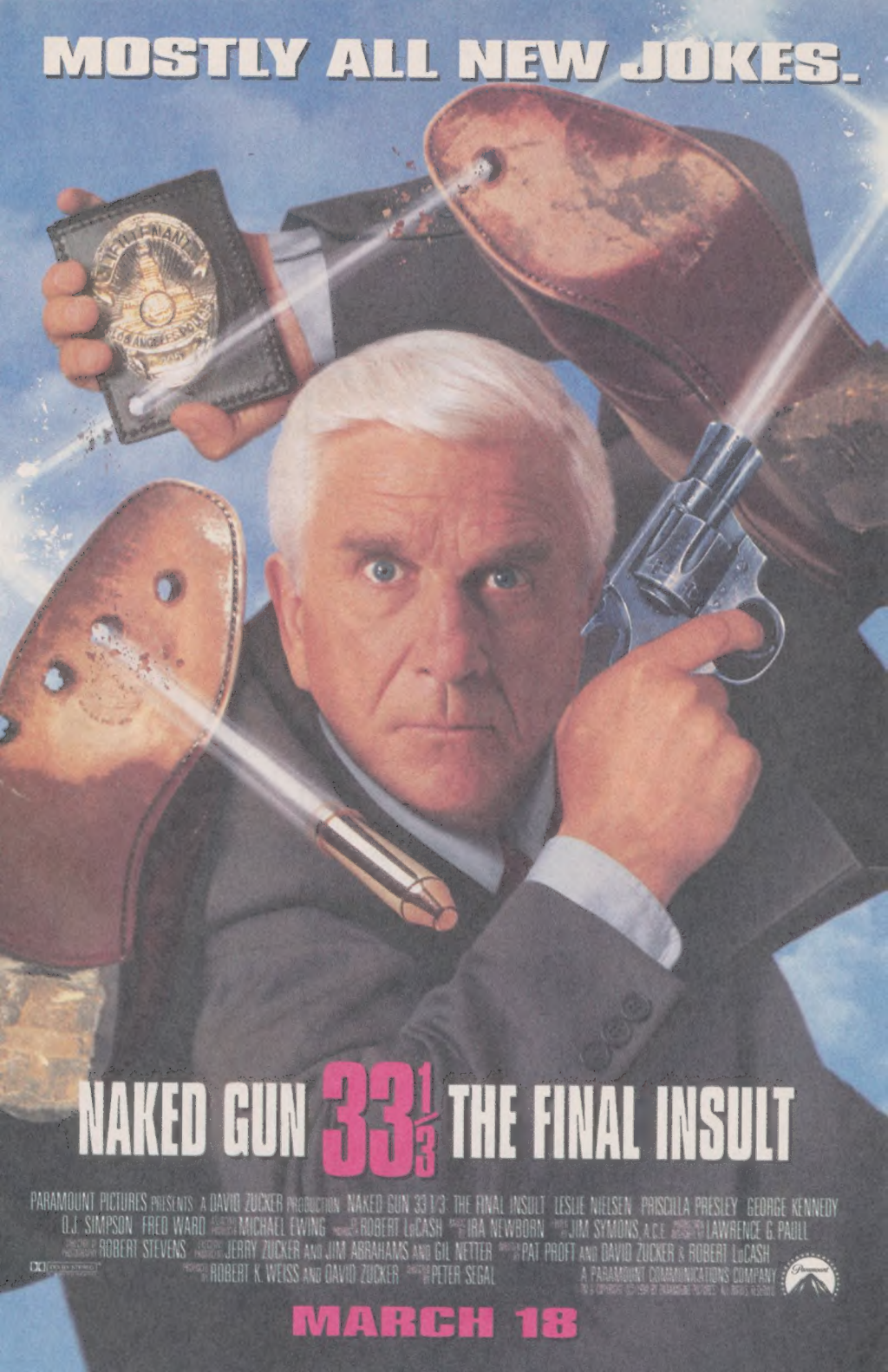

--THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!
NOT WHILE YOUR DNALIENS THREATEN DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS!
NO, LISTEN, THE CREATURES ATTACKING LEXCORP DIDN'T COME FROM THE PROJECT--I'D SWEAR TO THAT ON A STACK OF BIBLES!
SUPERMAN--?!
GUARDIAN TO BASE--IT'S NO USE! HE'S NOT EVEN SLOWING DOWN...
...NOT THAT I BLAME HIM. METROPOLIS IS MY CITY, TOO. IF I HAD HIS POWERS, I WOULDN'T DAWDLE EITHER!
STAY WITH HIM, GUARDIAN.
NO CAN DO, CADMUS. I'VE ALREADY KICKED IN THE WHIZ WAGON'S AFTERBURNERS, BUT AS FAST AS HE IS--
LOSING IT!
ROGER STERN WRITER • JACKSON GUICE & DENIS RODIER - ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER • GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
CHRIS DUFFY ASSISTANT EDITOR • FRANK PITTARESE ASSOCIATE EDITOR • MIKE CARLIN SUPER-EDITOR
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
GUARDIAN created by JOE SIMON & JACK KIRBY
3


--I MIGHT AS WELL BE STANDING STILL!
P-BAK!
WESTFIELD, HAVE YOUR GENE-SLICERS GONE CRAZY?! LEXCORP PLAZA HAS BECOME A WAR ZONE!
THIS SAVAGE ASSAULT ON LEXCORP TOWER SHOWS CADMUS FOR WHAT IT IS... A RECKLESS, OUTLAW ORGANIZATION! I CALL UPON WASHINGTON TO SHUT IT DOWN IMMEDIATELY...
MANY OF THE CREATURES APPEAR SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT ATTACKED SUPERBOY, JUST DAYS AGO...
POLICE COMMISSIONER HENDERSON COMING ON LINE, SIR--!
BELIEVE ME, COMMISSIONER, WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS! THESE ACCUSATIONS OF LUTHOR'S--
*IN ADVENTURES #506.

--THAT CADMUS IS ATTACKING LEXCORP --ARE INSANE.
WELL, SOMEONE'S BEHIND THE ATTACK...

...THE QUESTION IS... WHO? THOSE "PAYBACK" DNALIENS WERE CREATIONS OF THE LATE DABNEY DONOVAN... AND SOMEONE RESEMBLING DONOVAN MADE AN ATTEMPT ON LUTHOR'S LIFE JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO.*
*IN ACTION #678.


MAYBE SOME CLONE OF DONOVAN'S IS RESPONSIBLE--?
AH...
WHIZ-CAM!


MOSTLY ALL NEW JOKES.
NAKED GUN 33 1/3 THE FINAL INSULT
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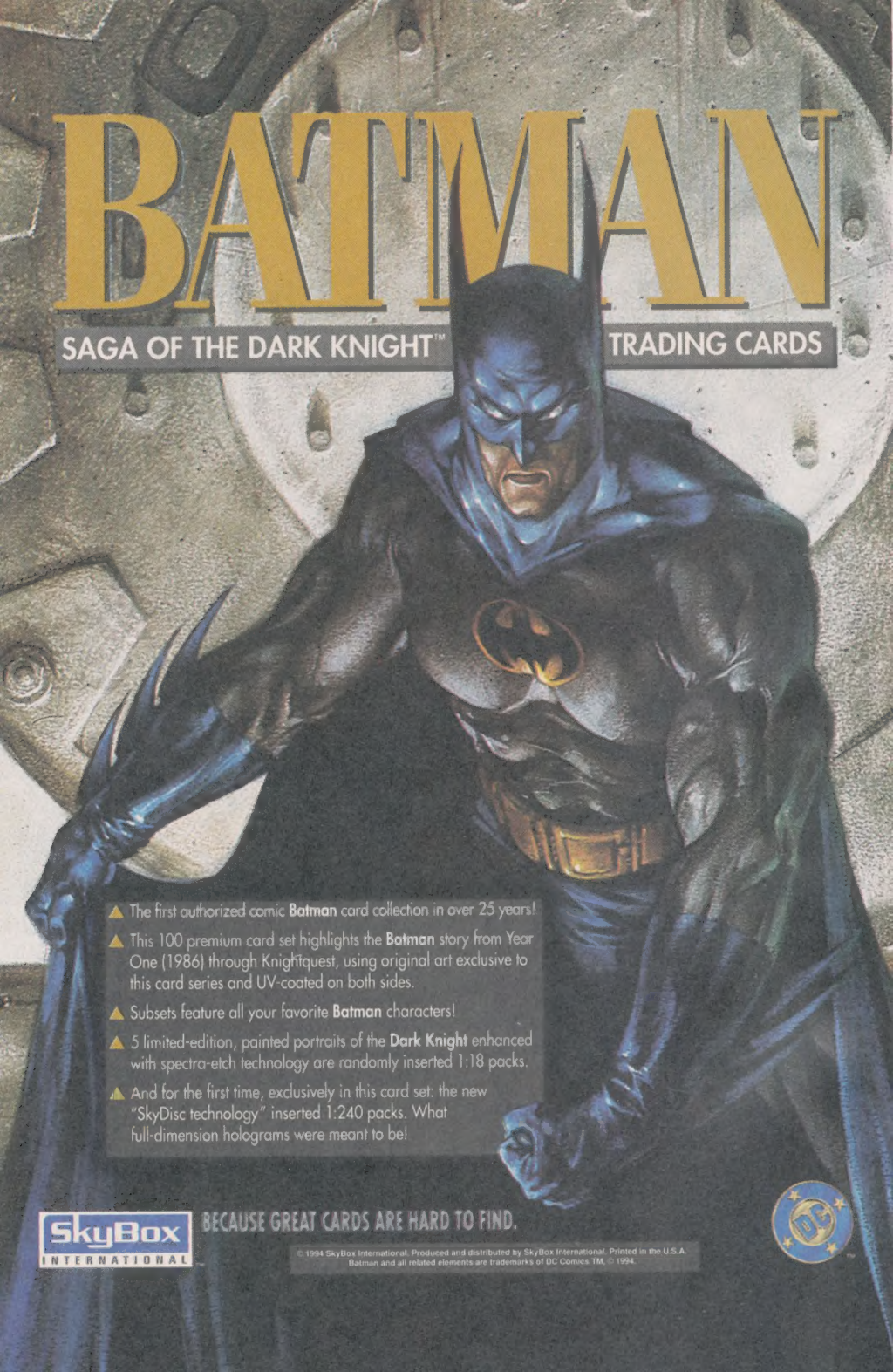
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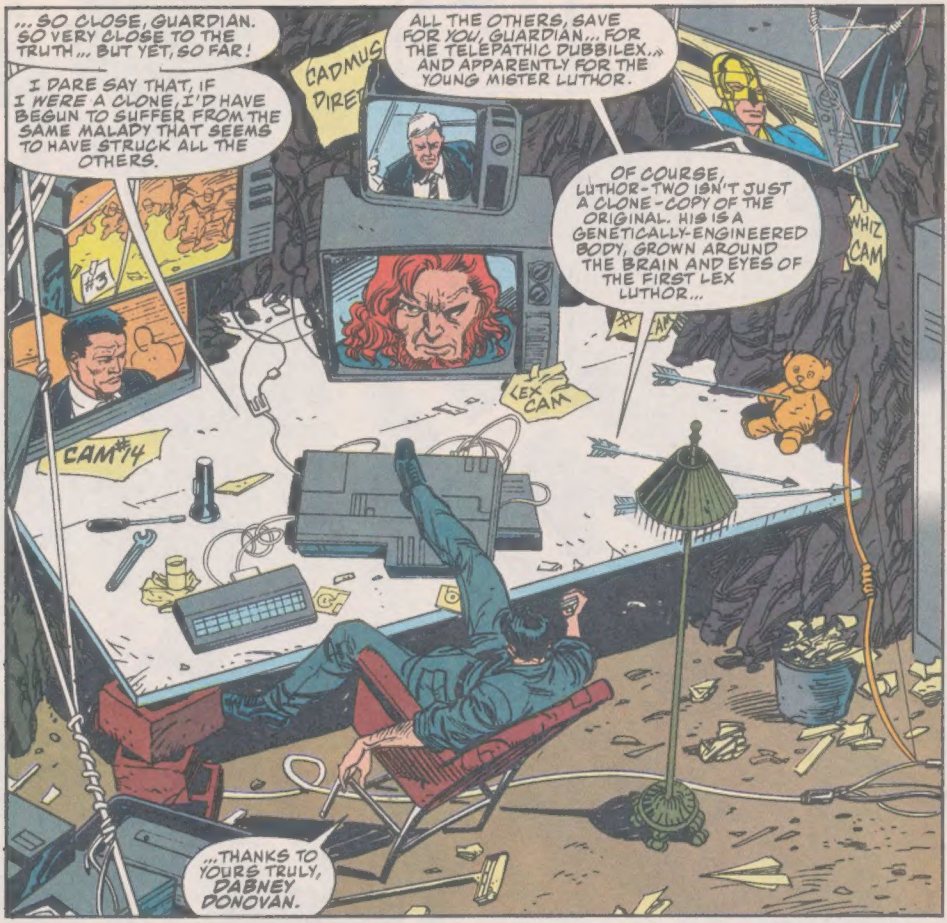

...SO CLOSE, GUARDIAN. SO VERY CLOSE TO THE TRUTH... BUT YET, SO FAR!
I DARE SAY THAT, IF I WERE A CLONE, I'D HAVE BEGUN TO SUFFER FROM THE SAME MALADY THAT SEEMS TO HAVE STRUCK ALL THE OTHERS.
ALL THE OTHERS, SAVE FOR YOU, GUARDIAN... FOR THE TELEPATHIC DUBBIL-EX... AND APPARENTLY FOR THE YOUNG MISTER LUTHOR.
OF COURSE, LUTHOR-TWO ISN'T JUST A CLONE - COPY OF THE ORIGINAL. HIS IS A GENETICALLY-ENGINEERED BODY, GROWN AROUND THE BRAIN AND EYES OF THE FIRST LEX LUTHOR...
CADMUS DIRE
WHIZ CAM
LEX CAM
CAM #14
...THANKS TO YOURS TRULY, DABNEY DONOVAN.

"THANKS"... HAH!
CAM #9
LEXCORP
YOU WERE MISERLY IN YOUR THANKS, LEX... YOU TRIED TO KILL ME... TWICE!

THEN AGAIN, NO ONE HAS EVER TRULY APPRECIATED MY GENIUS. THERE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN A CADMUS PROJECT, IF NOT FOR ME...
...BUT THE OTHERS WERE ALL JEALOUS OF ME, TRYING TO LIMIT MY CREATIVITY WITH THEIR RULES. I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FAKE MY DEATH--
--TO FLEE TO THESE CATACOMBS BENEATH THE PROJECT TO REGAIN THE FREEDOM TO EXPERIMENT. BUT, NO MATTER...

...BOTH LUTHOR AND CADMUS SHALL GET THEIR COMEUPPANCE NOW...

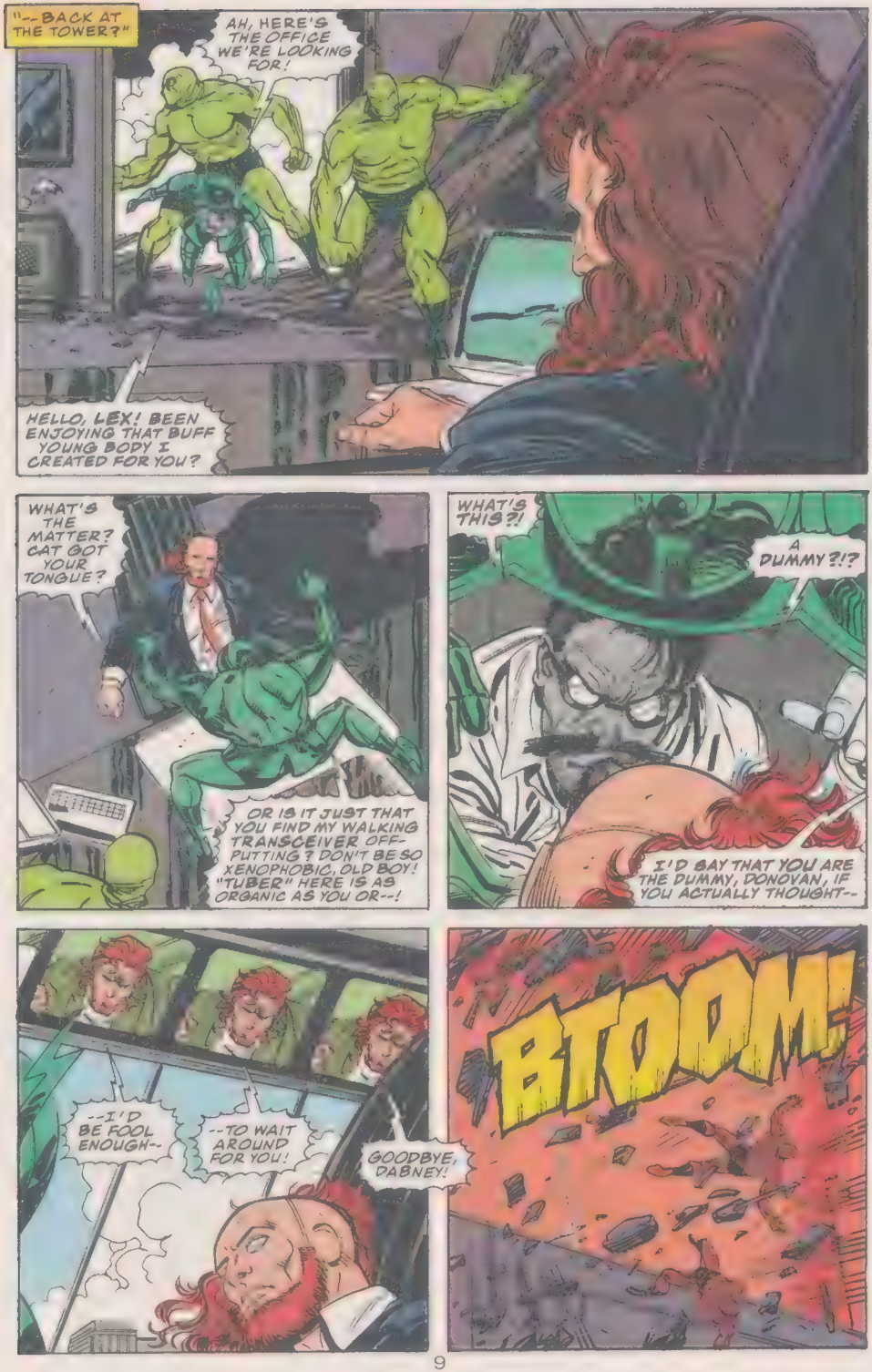
"... MY DNALIENS SHALL SEE TO THAT!
"YES... WREAK HAVOC, MY LITTLE PAYBACKS! MAKE MAYHEM, MY FAITHFUL GIANTS!
P-BAK! P-BAK!
MMMRRAHH!
"BEFORE YOU, TOO, SUCCUMB TO THE 'OLONE PLAGUE,' WE SHALL UNDERMINE THE ORDERLY EMPIRE OF THE GREAT LEX LUTHOR!
"MY DEAR, FORMER COLLEAGUES AT CADMUS WILL GET THE BLAME, AND I WILL GET THE LAST LAUGH!
"HURRY, NOW--"

--CLEAR US A PATH THROUGH THOSE SECURITY GUARDS!
POOR, PATHETIC WRETCHES...
WOKT!
...THEIR LOYALTY TO THEIR EMPLOYER WOULD BE ALMOST ADMIRABLE, WERE IT NOT SO MISPLACED.
LUTHOR WOULD SELL THEM OUT IN AN INSTANT, IF IT SUITED HIS PURPOSES. AH, THERE'S THE ELEVATOR WE WANT.
URRR?
YES, YES... YOU TWO GIANTS COME WITH ME...
...WE'LL BEARD THE RENOWNED MISTER LUTHOR IN HIS OWN EXECUTIVE SUITE--
"--WHILE OUR LITTLE FRIENDS CREATE A DIVERSION OUTSIDE!"
P-BAK!
P-BAK!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
P-BAK?

OVER THE YEARS I'VE HAD PLENTY OF BAD DEAL-INGS WITH LEXCORP--
--BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU LITTLE MONSTERS--
--TEAR DOWN ITS CORPORATE HEAD-QUARTERS! TOO MANY HONEST PEOPLE WORK HERE!
eh?
THESE LITTLE CREATURES ARE START-ING TO HEAT UP-- JUST LIKE THE ONES WHO WENT AFTER SUPERBOY!* IF THEY'RE RUNNING TRUE TO FORM--
* AGAIN, IN ADVENTURES #506.

--I HAVE TO GET THEM AWAY FROM HERE, BEFORE THEY...

...DETONATE!
FWA-BOOM!
MY GOD! WHAT IF THEY'D GONE OFF--


"--BACK AT THE TOWER?"
AH, HERE'S THE OFFICE WE'RE LOOKING FOR!
HELLO, LEX! BEEN ENJOYING THAT BUFF YOUNG BODY I CREATED FOR YOU?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
OR IS IT JUST THAT YOU FIND MY WALKING TRANSCEIVER OFF-PUTTING? DON'T BE SO XENOPHOBIC, OLD BOY! "TUBER" HERE IS AS ORGANIC AS YOU OR--!
WHAT'S THIS?!
A DUMMY?!?
I'D SAY THAT YOU ARE THE DUMMY, DONOVAN, IF YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT--
--I'D BE FOOL ENOUGH--
--TO WAIT AROUND FOR YOU!
GOODBYE, DABNEY!
BTOOM!

$#*%!! OF ALL THE CONSUMMATE GALL! HOW DARE HE TURN MY TRAP 'ROUND ON ME?
AND HIS BOMB KNOCKED OUT MY "TUBER!" NOW I'LL HAVE TO RELY--
CAM #14
--UPON THE INFERNAL MEDIA TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!
...SUDDEN EXPLOSION HAS ROCKED THE LEXCORP TOWER...
"... AND TWO FIGURES APPEAR TO BE HANGING ON FOR DEAR LIFE TO THE SIDE OF THE SKYSCRAPER."
WHO ARE THEY?
CAN YOU SEE THEM?
THEY MUST BE-- WHAT?-- NEARLY NINETY STORIES UP!
THEY'RE SLIPPING! GET BACK, THEY'LL BE--!
NO, LOOK!
GOING MY WAY?
IT'S SUPERMAN!
NICE CATCH!
THEY'RE SAFE NOW.
MAYBE NOT. LOOK AGAIN!
YE GODS! ARE THEY PANICKING-- OR ARE THEY JUST STUPID?
BEATS ME... MAYBE BOTH! SUPERMAN JUST SAVED THEM FROM BECOMING SMEARS ON THE PAVEMENT--

"--BUT IT SURE LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FIGHTING HIM!"
MRRAAA!
UFF! HOLD STILL!
FUNNY... DIDN'T THINK... THEY HIT ME... THAT HARD...
...BUT... FEEL STRANGE... LIGHT-HEADED...
WOK!
...CAN'T
THINK
STRAIGHT
HAARRR!
HOLY SMOKES-- THEY'RE IN FREE FALL!
EVERYBODY GET CLEAR!! THEY'RE GONNA HIT--
"--HARD!"
KRA-TOOM!
SUPERMAN!
H-HE LOOKED A LITTLE SHAKY. YOU DON'T SUPPOSE HE'S--?

BTAMM!
BACK OFF!!
WELL... HE'S ALL RIGHT NOW!
MAN! SUPERMAN MUST REALLY BE TICKED OFF!
I HAVEN'T HEARD SUCH AN EDGE IN HIS VOICE SINCE... GEEZ, SINCE HE WENT UP AGAINST DOOMSDAY!
OH, MAN--

Take control.
Dig deeper.
Own Topps and you own
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All the stats that matter.
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Get what no one else does.
Know what no one else knows.
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topps
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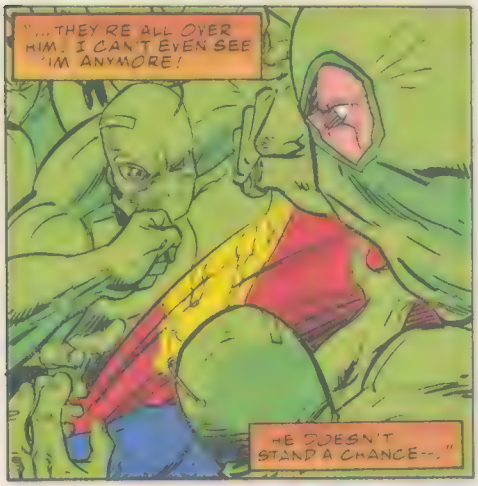
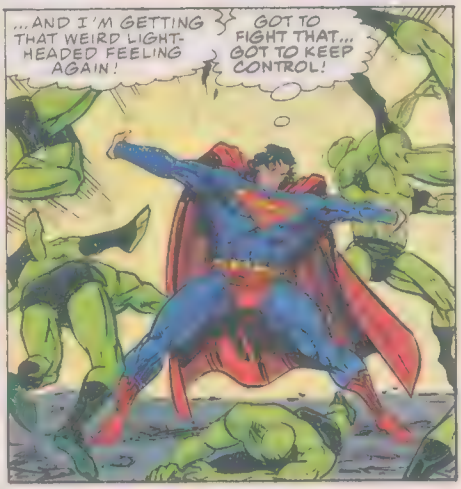
"--THESE CREEPS ARE BIGGER THAN DOOMSDAY! IF THEY'RE EVEN HALF AS TOUGH--
"--WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!"
THOOM!
mmmhh... THAT WEIRD FEELING'S PASSING... GOT TO GET IT TOGETHER BEFORE--!
HEY! I SAID-- BACK OFF!
BTOK!
IS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR ARE THESE BRUISERS GETTING SMALLER?
LET'S HAVE A BETTER LOOK AT YOU, BIG GREEN.
ACCORDING TO THE LAST NEWSCAST I SAW,* LUTHOR SWORE THAT THESE CREATURES WERE SENT FROM THE CADMUS PROJECT TO ATTACK LEXCORP.
* IN ADVENTURES #511, NOW ON SALE
CADMUS DENIED EVERY-THING, BUT...
...YOU NEVER KNOW. THEIR SCIENTISTS DID ONCE TRY TO CLONE ME, AFTER ALL!* OF COURSE, SO DID...
* LEGACY OF SUPERMAN #1.
...LUTHOR?* WHAT THE DEVIL IS GOING ON HERE?
RRRARRH!
* SUPERMAN #87.

OH, GREAT! MORE OF THEM! AND UNLESS MY X-RAY VISION HAS GONE TOTALLY ON THE FRITZ--
--THEY ALL HAVE LUTHOR'S FACE!
MHARRRR!
SUPERMAN, LOOK OUT!
TOO LATE...


"...THEY'RE ALL OVER HIM. I CAN'T EVEN SEE 'IM ANYMORE!
HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE--"

WUKK!
DON'T COUNT ME OUT YET, FRIEND.

IF ANYTHING--
WUUD!
--I FEEL STRONGER-- AND FASTER!-- THAN EVER! MY POWERS... ARE CONTINUING TO INCREASE..


...AND I'M GETTING THAT WEIRD LIGHT-HEADED FEELING AGAIN!
GOT TO FIGHT THAT... GOT TO KEEP CONTROL!

SUPERMAN! SUPERMAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
LORD, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING A SEIZURE!
I'M... FUNCTIONING... GUARDIAN...
...BUT I DON'T THINK I'M EXACTLY "OKAY."
?!?< YOU... YOU'VE GROWN! YOU MUST BE NEARLY EIGHT FEET TALL! HOW--?!
I'M NOT SURE OF THE PROCESS, BUT--!
GET BACK!
WHA--? IS THAT... LEX LUTHOR?
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
MURRAHH!
IT'S JUST AN UNREASONABLE-- UNREASONING-- FACSIMILE!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ENGLISH, GREEN? DROP THAT CLUB--
--IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET BURNT!
GYARRR!

THWOK
WUNNGH!
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT GET HIS ATTENTION!
HE'S DOWN-- YOU CAN EASE OFF NOW.
SUPERMAN? DID YOU HEAR ME? EASE OFF ON THE HEAT VISION!
YOU'RE MELTING DOWN THAT WRECKED VAN. YOU'LL TOUCH OFF THE WHOLE BLOCK, IF YOU DON'T STOP!
I... I THOUGHT I HAD!
GUARDIAN, STAY BACK!
I CAN'T TURN IT OFF!
YOU'VE GOT TO! THE ASPHALT IS MELTING AT YOUR GLANCE! FIGHT IT!
I'M TRYING... BUT... I CAN'T EVEN KEEP MY EYELIDS CLOSED! IT'S BURNING ME, TOO!
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--

UNLEASH THE BEAST WITHIN.

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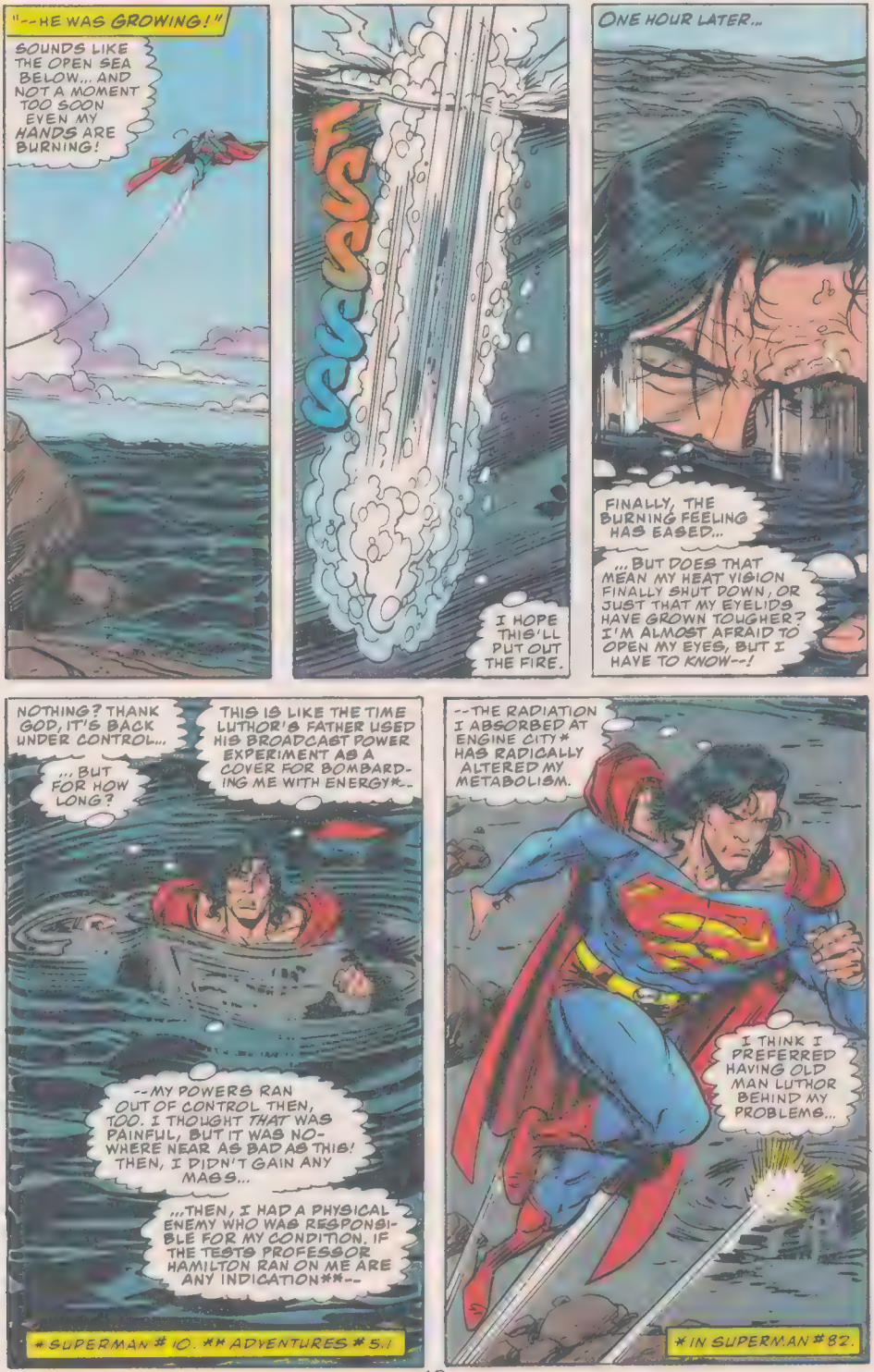
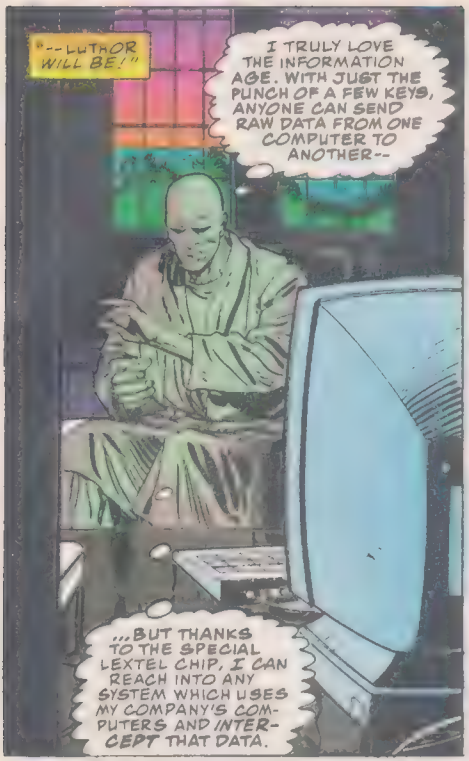
--GOT TO GET AWAY!
DON'T GIVE UP, SUPERMAN! YOU CAN GET IT UNDER CONTROL!
YOU MUST.
GUARDIAN! ANY STATEMENT ON LUTHOR'S ACCUSATIONS?
HE'S WRONG. CADMUS IS NOT OUT TO GET HIM.
THEN WHERE DID THOSE CREATURES COME FROM?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHY WAS SUPERMAN MELTING THE PAVEMENT? WHY DID HE LEAVE?
I REALLY HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENTS--OTHER THAN TO ADVISE YOU ALL TO STAY CLEAR OF THE GIANTS. I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN THEY MIGHT REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS--!
FWOOMPH!
YOW!
TH-THEY'RE GOIN' UP IN FLAMES!
GET BACK!
MORE AND MORE, THESE GIANTS LOOK LIKE DABNEY DONOVAN'S WORK! I WONDER... WERE THEY DESIGNED TO IGNITE, AS A FAIL-SAFE TO DESTROY EVIDENCE...
...OR IS THIS THEIR REACTION TO THE "CLONE PLAGUE"?
I JUST CALLED 911, GUARDIAN. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS ON ITS WAY--AND THE BOMB SQUAD!
GOOD WORK, OLSEN.
UH, GUARDIAN? IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH SUPERMAN? I MEAN, THIS'LL SOUND CRAZY, BUT IT ALMOST LOOKED AS THOUGH--

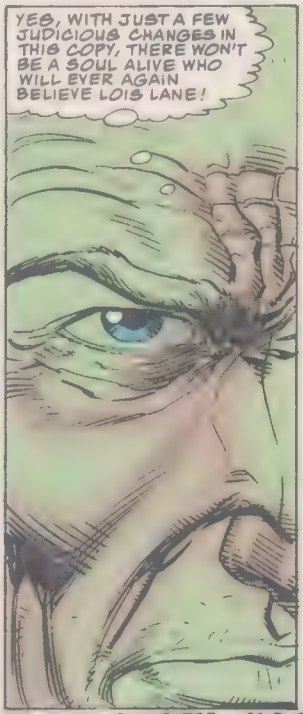

"--HE WAS GROWING!"
SOUNDS LIKE THE OPEN SEA BELOW... AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON EVEN MY HANDS ARE BURNING!
FSSSSSS
I HOPE THIS'LL PUT OUT THE FIRE.
ONE HOUR LATER...
FINALLY, THE BURNING FEELING HAS EASED...
...BUT DOES THAT MEAN MY HEAT VISION FINALLY SHUT DOWN, OR JUST THAT MY EYELIDS HAVE GROWN TOUGHER? I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO OPEN MY EYES, BUT I HAVE TO KNOW--!
NOTHING? THANK GOD, IT'S BACK UNDER CONTROL...
...BUT FOR HOW LONG?
THIS IS LIKE THE TIME LUTHOR'S FATHER USED HIS BROADCAST POWER EXPERIMENT AS A COVER FOR BOMBARDING ME WITH ENERGY*--
--MY POWERS RAN OUT OF CONTROL THEN, TOO. I THOUGHT THAT WAS PAINFUL, BUT IT WAS NOWHERE NEAR AS BAD AS THIS! THEN, I DIDN'T GAIN ANY MASS...
...THEN, I HAD A PHYSICAL ENEMY WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CONDITION. IF THE TESTS PROFESSOR HAMILTON RAN ON ME ARE ANY INDICATION**--
* SUPERMAN # 10. ** ADVENTURES # 5.!
--THE RADIATION I ABSORBED AT ENGINE CITY* HAS RADICALLY ALTERED MY METABOLISM.
I THINK I PREFERRED HAVING OLD MAN LUTHOR BEHIND MY PROBLEMS...
* IN SUPERMAN # 82.

*IN THE SUPERGIRL MINISERIES, NOW ON SALE!

*IN SUPERMAN #88

"...MUCH TOO CLOSE!"
TEK! TAK! TAK!
SOURCES AT LEXCORP REITERATED LUTHOR'S ACCUSATIONS--
--SUGGESTING THAT THE GUARDIAN WAS INVOLVED IN A PLOT TO DESTROY EVIDENCE LINKING CADMUS TO THE ATTACK!
YEAH, RIGHT.
SCHEME ON, LEX--I'LL SOON HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE I NEED TO BLOW THE LID OFF YOUR SORDID LITTLE EMPIRE! I HAVE "SOURCES AT LEXCORP," TOO!
BRING!
MAYBE THAT'S ONE NOW!
HELLO--? CLARK, THANK HEAVENS!
WHERE ARE YOU? HOW ARE YOU?!
I'M ABOUT SIXTY MILES DOWN THE COAST ON ROUTE NINE, LOIS AND I'M ALL RIGHT... AT LEAST FOR NOW.
I SAW THE ATTACK ON TV. SUPERMAN, UH, LOOKED A LITTLE BELEAGUERED
THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO PUT IT, HON--
--DON'T SAY ANYTHING ON A PHONE THAT MIGHT BE OVERHEARD.
SUPERMAN HAS A FEW PROBLEMS HE'S TRYING TO WORK OUT... AND I'M TAGGING ALONG TO SEE IF THERE'S A STORY IN IT... IN CASE ANYONE ASKS!
I MISS YOU, LOIS
I MISS YOU, TOO. COME HOME SOON...
... I HAVE A STORY IN THE WORKS -- ABOUT LEX LUTHOR -- THAT I THINK YOU'LL WANT IN ON. IT'S NOT FINISHED YET, BUT WHEN IT IS--





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Batman Death in the Family	$5/	3.95
Batman Knightfall Vol 1 or 2	$13/	9.95
Batman Sword of Azrael	$10/	7.95
Bone Trade (Issues #1-6)	$13/	10.95
Daredevil: Fall From Grace	$20/	16.95

Collects the entire story plus 10 new pgs!

Death Trade (Neil Gaiman)	$13/	10.95
Death of Superman Trade	$5/	3.95
Overstreet 1994 Price Guide	$15/	12.95
Solar Origin Trade	$10/	7.95

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Spiderman Trade (McFarl)	$13/	10.95
Spiderman vs. Venom	$13/	10.95
Superman Returns Trade	$15/	11.95
Wolverine Trade (Miller)	$10/	7.95
X-Men Dark Phoenix Saga	$13/	10.95
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Contains the entire 280 page story!

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Features the intro of an all new female Dreadstar!

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Comic Boards	$4.50

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All new 3 issue series! 48 pages! Hot!

IMAGE

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Written & illustrated by Todd McFarlane!

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Written by Frank Miller! Art by McFarlane!

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Ghost Rider returns! Die cut fox cover!

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X-Men 2099 #9 (Lim art)	1.50/	1.25
X-Men Adventures II 5	1.25/	.99
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IMAGE

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Great new 48 pg story! Painted cover!

Harbinger Files: Harada #1	2.50/	1.95

At last! The origin of the ruthless Harada!

Ninjak 6 (Guest stars X-O)	2.25/	1.75
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All new team! All new direction!

Solar #0 Trade (Origin)	$10/	7.95

The origin of Solar from issues #1-10!
Written by Jim Shooter! Art by Barry Smith!

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What is TV Like in the DC Universe?

If this month's DC Comics were TV shows: one night on DCTV might look this:

(Please write in with what you would watch.)

[NOTE: CHOICES FOR ACTORS ARE THE EDITORS' OPINION, AND DO NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. BESIDES, WE COULDN'T AFFORD THEM ANYWAY.]

8PM [2] **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #55—Science Fiction** *1:00*
Running from the Science Police, members land on the planet Rimbor in the middle of a civil war. Rokk Krinn: Grant Show. Querl Dox: Jonathan Brandis. Jo Nah: Eric Nies. Ayla: Jodie Foster. Violet: Gabrielle Anwar. Mysa: Drew Barrymore.

[4] **AQUAMAN: TIME & TIDE #4—Drama** *1:00*
Last show of the series. Aquaman discovers his brother is Ocean Master. Guest-stars Mera, Aqualad, Tula, and Arthur, Jr. (There will be a new AQUAMAN series later this year.) Aquaman: Kiefer Sutherland.

[7] **JUSTICE LEAGUE—Action Anthology** *2:00*
America #86: "Cults of the Machine" begins.
Int'l #62: Aliens hold Earth hostage.
Quarterly #14: Captain Atom, Blue Beetle, Nightshade and others meet the threat of Andreas Havoc. Atom: Michael Madsen. Blue Beetle: Jason Patric. Nightshade: Madeline Stowe.

[5] **DC CARTOON UNIVERSE—Comedy** *2:00*
'Toons include Blue Devil, Amethyst, Justice League a' Animals, and more.

9PM [2] **ALFRED & JEAN PAUL: The New Batman—Drama Anthology** *2:00*
Batman #505: "Knightquest: the Crusade" continues—defeated by Abattoir, Batman makes his costume more deadly. Batman: Brad Pitt; **Shadow of the Bat #25:** The Corrosive Man puts Batman's new costume to the test. Batman: Cary Elwes; **Detective #672:** The Joker directs "The Death of Batman" movie. Batman: Peter Horton. Joker: Aidan Quinn.

[4] **GREEN LANTERN #50—Drama/Adventure** *2:00*
(see DCTV SPOTLIGHT below)

10PM [5] **LOBO #4—Comedy/Adventure** *1:00*
It's Kamikaze Biker Babes vs. Were-Lobo! (Due to extreme violence, an advisory will be posted constantly on screen.)
Lobo: Bill Paxton.

[7] **WARRIOR #18—Action** *1:00*
Guy Gardner battles Militia with Ice's life at stake. Guy Gardner: Christian Slater. Ice: Meg Ryan.

[9] **DIRECT CURRENTS—Discussion** *1:00*
Topics include next month's DCTV offerings.

DCTV Spotlight

Photo: Banks & Tanghal

[4] **GREEN LANTERN #50—Drama/Adventure** *2:00*
NOT the last show of the series, but the end of an era. Green Lantern (Hal Jordan) has reached the Main Power Battery to gain enough energy to restore Coast City. But now, Hal faces his greatest foe, Sinestro, given a GL ring by the Guardians. Their battle's grim finality means no turning back for Hal and may mean the end of it all. But it's not over. Next time: a bright new green glow on the horizon. Hal Jordan Gallery by Stuart Immonen, Paul Pelletier, Jeff Johnson, Terry Austin, Joe Phillips, Tom Raney, and others.

Green Lantern/Hal Jordan.....Dennis Quaid
Sinestro.....Raul Julia
Kilowog.....John Goodman
Ganthet.....Paul Williams
Kyle Rayner.....Andrew Shue

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RE:ACTION

DC COMICS
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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Before we get to our letters for ACTION COMICS #694, we have two quick orders of business regarding credit where credit is due. First, the cover of the aforesaid issue of ACTION listed Roger Stern as writer, when it was really written by a hardworking Karl Kesel. (An equally hardworking Stern needed a break while he toiled away on the SUPERGIRL miniseries.) Thanks to Charles Harden of Panacea, Florida, for pointing this out (only after Karl Kesel did!!). Second, you may have noticed a new name tagged onto the end of the letter columns in all four Super-titles—Chris Duffy has joined the ranks of the DC editorial staff as assistant to Mike Carlin and Archie Goodwin. He hails from Hyperion Books for Children and Walt Disney Press, and he says he was happy to turn in his mouse ears for a nice red cape...

*****

Dear Super-Team:

Good issue with ACTION COMICS #694. I may be among the minority, but I do feel it necessary to show the occasional bigot in comics—especially the crazed type that is filled with hate. Why? Because this can let people see, especially young readers, that there is just no sanity behind such hateful feelings. We are all people and each of us is different. I am also glad that you show this bigot getting beaten. This kind of sick individual never deserves to win, not even the smallest of battles.

I am sure Superman will defeat this new hybrid of Hi-Tech and Bloodsport. The fights will never stop while Superman is there to use his powers to defend the good against the forces of evil.

There are many evils, however, that cannot be defeated by brute force. The evil of other kinds of bigotry, such as the sexual harassment by Vincent Edge of Cat Grant, even after the very recent death of her son, is just that. Super-strength, super-vision, powers, flying...none of those can stop this kind of outmoded and incorrect behavior. This is a battle that only Cat can fight. I hope that this is handled well. I think that it can be one of the better subplots in a long time.

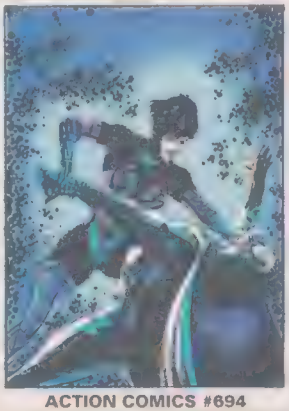
This was yet another terrific issue in the Superman saga. The art was great as well. I cannot find a single fault with it. Thanks to all of you for another great buy in entertainment.

Carl Pietrantonio
Laredo, TX

*****

Dear Mike and Frank:

I normally don't care for these all-fight issues, but ACTION #694 was able to hold my interest all through the book. This was due largely to the appearance of the higher Hi-Tech. I didn't really care for her first encounter with Superman; I found her just plain dull, but now I find her more interesting. Perhaps it's because she is now out to kill and not to test, or whatever, maybe because she fought with Bloodsport, who displayed all the intelligence of a racist by blowing himself up with a grenade, taking Hi-Tech with him. Until she became a higher higher Hi-Tech (Hiest-Tech?) cyborg, but enough with these cyborgs, let's get back to some of the more classic villains, like Parasite, the Prankster and Metallo—well, maybe not Metallo.



ACTION COMICS #694

I hope Cat Grant sues Vinnie Edge for so much money he has to sell WGBS to her as payment.

Don Cromie
Cleveland, OH

Hope you caught Metallo over in DAMAGE #1, Don. And the Parasite? Hmmm ...let's see. Parasite...Parasite. Oh, you mean the big purple guy in the next issue of MAN OF STEEL (in two weeks)? That Parasite?

*****

Hi, DC:

"Hey—no more baby-sitter hassles, right?" After making a statement like that, Vinnie Edge should be Bloodsport's next victim. Or maybe Toyman can take Vinnie away and play with him the way Toyman played with Adam.

I hope Cat is able to stop his sleazy little joy ride.

Jesse W. Jackson
Irving, TX

*****

Dear DC:

I have been collecting comic books for two years and I always buy two copies of each—one to read and one to save.

I have the complete set of "The Death of Superman." I only need 11 more, and I'll have the whole set from the "Death of Superman" to ACTION #694.

I wish I could get all the SUPERMAN comic books I want for free, instead of having to do chores to earn the money. I hate washing dishes. I have a couple of questions I would like you to answer for me, please. First, what happened to Doomsday? Second, in which Superman comic book will Clark and Lois get married?

I love reading SUPERMAN comic books. It's the best comic book around. Thank you for putting out such a great comic book. I'll keep reading them.

Charlie Atwood
Mussey, MI

Thanks for your support, Charlie. Because you're on your way to having dishpan hands for the SUPER titles, we'll be happy to answer your questions. Doomsday? Well, you saw him in ACTION #696. After that? Err...you'll see—in two months in the Prestige Format SUPERMAN/DOOMSDAY miniseries. This time, as they say, it's war. And as for the big wedding...uh, no...Clark and Lois tell us no date's been set yet...yeah, that's it. Umm. Any other questions?

*****

Dear Super team:

Let me begin with fountains of praise! The continuing quality of the Superman titles continues to astound me. The "Reign of the Supermen" was one of the best Superman stories I've read since I started collecting with the Byrne revitalization. Also, I have been pleasantly surprised by the "Spilled Blood" saga so far. Jackson Guice's art returned to its normal quality this issue. One thing is bugging me, though—a few questions.

1) Exactly why did Hi-Tech rescue Jimmy from the missile? This seems out of character.

2) More of a suggestion actually, but thinking of the emptiness of skip

week ahead—why can't we have a quarterly to fill in the four skip weeks each year? I'd love to see an affordable Elseworlds story every few months.

Concerning the upcoming ZERO HOUR:

3) Will Dan Jurgens have to take time off SUPERMAN to do ZERO HOUR?

4) How much retcon can we expect in the Superman area? I hope none.

To wrap things up, you've got a lot of good stuff in the wings. I can't wait until the SUPERBOY series and SUPERGIRL miniseries, not to mention the aforementioned ZERO HOUR. But, of course, the main thing in the back of my mind is a little issue a few months away: ACTION #700!!! Are we finally going to see that wedding?

Keep up the fantastic work!

Jeffery D. Sykes
Lexington, KY

Okay! These questions I can answer!

1) As it probably became clear in MAN OF STEEL #29, Hi-Tech, as an agent of Bloodthirst, wasn't necessarily out to help Bloodsport—or to hurt any particular person—but rather to stir up general chaos and havoc. Her later fixation with killing Jimmy was merely a byproduct of her absorbing the missile programmed to kill Mr. Olsen. Nothing personal.

2) We, too, feel the hand of despair upon our shoulder during skip weeks, Jeff. That's why we keep busy producing such extra goodies as the SUPERGIRL miniseries, LEGENDS OF THE WORLD'S FINEST, S.T.A.R. CORPS, and a little project mentioned earlier coming out in two months...

3) As you saw in the "Bizarro's World" stories over in SUPERMAN, stylish Stuart Immonen did an amazing "fill-in" (a phrase that hardly does justice to his fantastic rendering) while Jurgens produced the cataclysmic ZERO HOUR and a little project coming out in two months...

4) For those of you who care, "retcon" means retroactive continuity, not a heavy-duty pesticide. It means reestablishing a character's history after the fact. And the answer to your question, Jeff, is no. We like this Superman fine.

*****

Dear Mike, Frank, and Jennifer:

ACTION #694 offered something we've not seen in awhile: an issue-long slugfest. While this used to be the staple of ACTION COMICS, it's been awhile since we've seen that (offhand, I'd say since the Doomsday storyline). This was a refreshing change, in a way, by offering a fast-paced adventure. While it wasn't anything any comics reader hasn't seen before, the story was clever, nicely paced, and involving; however, the more serious tone that has crept into this title continued to flow here. We're beginning to understand the severity of Superman's task(s). It's not fun and games. People get hurt. People die. Flying through the sky may be fun, but there's a world of pain and torment below. Life is suffering, some say, and this is beginning to be illustrated in Metropolis. Dark times are ahead. Is this indicative of something greater? Are pre-millennium jitters creeping into the popular media and creative arts? Will our fears and doubts and longings continue to be propagated for the next decade? Can Superman be happy when America isn't? Is he there to inspire us during hard times, or is he there to serve as a reflection of our attitudes? It's up to the Super team to choose. In either case, the results should be worth watching and studying.

Mark Lucas
Los Angeles, CA

Mark, your letter poses some interesting questions about Superman's ongoing popularity. And to encourage further research on your part, a special Zenith Award for academic excellence is yours to see you through to the next millennium. (P.S. Most people call the Z.A. a Baldy!)

*****

Dear Mike:

Ya know, I once thought Hi-Tech had potential to become a heroine instead of a villain, but after this latest episode in ACTION #694, I've lost all faith in the babe. Now she's completely machinery, has lost all semblance of humanity, and is seeking to kill Jimmy, picking up Bloodsport II's ridiculous agenda. Pathetic.

And Bloodsport II. This jerk was even worse than the original. A racist serial killer is the last thing Superman needed to deal with. Jimmy was marked because of "guilt by association." GIVE ME A BREAK! If Bloodsport II had half a brain, and I doubt he did, well, mere words just will not do to describe the fool.

A quick bravo to Cat Grant for telling off Vinnie Edge. A mother's grief means nothing to a semisenile, skirt-chasing lecher like Edge, who turns out to be twice as bad as his son Morgan was. I can't see her taking on "Toyman" alone, though. I use quotes around "Toyman" for a reason, of course, as I am still not convinced that this is the real Toyman.

Artistically, subbing Leialoha for Rodier on the inks shows little difference —Guice's pencils are that strong. No discounting the grade, either. Another 10.

Jacob Gilbert
Troy, NY

*****

Dear Super People:

Re: ACTION #694

I've just finished part two of "Spilled Blood," and I can't believe there is only one part left! A storyline this good deserves more than just a trio of installments. I hope we can look forward to a sequel in the near future, provided that anyone is left standing at the end of part three.

Jimmy seems to have finally gotten his wish: a desirable female who wants him. Unfortunately, he won't be around very long if he and Hi-Tech decide to consummate the relationship! This new and improved Hi-Tech represents something of which there seems to be a deficit in the SUPERMAN titles. We need more interesting female villains. I hope that in the future we will see more of the likes of Silver Banshee, White Rabbit, and Hi-Tech.

I'm glad to see Cat finally stand up to Vinnie Edge. I'm surprised she didn't do more than just walk out on him, but she seems to have something up her sleeve in regard to getting back at him. I just hope it doesn't involve that gun she has.

All in all, another great issue, and I just hope I can hold out an extra week for the next one.

Thomas V. Accardo
Brooklyn, NY

Your point about female villains is apt for the world of super-hero comics, Tom, but as your list shows, the SUPER titles have quite a few interesting woman baddies. And on that subject, Silver Banshee is currently screeching through the pages of LEGENDS OF THE WORLD'S FINEST, Tom—a pre-Doomsday/pre-Bane tale of Superman and Batman, also featuring another female villain (not on your list) whom we haven't seen in a while. As for Cat's dealing with Vinnie Edge — as you can see, she chose a pretty strong tactic, though a legal one. She's back on her feet and fighting.

—Chris Duffy
Friend to the Revolution

NEXT WEEK: AIEEE! "Skip week" snuck up on Superman again! Run!

IN TWO WEEKS: In MAN OF STEEL #33, someone purple and glowing and not so nice would be happy to help Superman with his excess energy problem. But can the bigger-than-big Supes risk it? And behind the scenes, Lex is futzing with Lois's life! Weezie writes, Bog pencils, and Jank inks as we take the Man of Steel to a new, uh, shirt size in a mere seven days!

IN THREE WEEKS: In SUPERMAN #89, a colossal Superman and concerned Cadmus scientists orbit the earth trying to help the Man of Steel regain control over his overcharged body. Meanwhile, Franklin Stern has some news for Lois—and it ain't good! Jurgens and Rubinstein dish up the thrills in fourteen days.

IN FOUR WEEKS: In ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #512, the Parasite and Superman clash in space, and the results are not pretty. But the comic book is! It's crafted by Kesel, Kitson, McCarthy—a feast for the eyes in twenty-one days!

NEXT MONTH: In ACTION COMICS #699, Superman's back on Earth, and just in time—'cause the Cadmus/LexCorp war hits the streets! It's the start of a chain of events that no one in Metropolis will ever forget! Stern and Norman Felchle do the honors in one month!

ON THE COVER: Remember good ol' X-ray specs? Well, this is worse!! Jackson Guice drew it and Suzanne Bourdages colored it!

WAR DEVIL

UNSTOPPABLE

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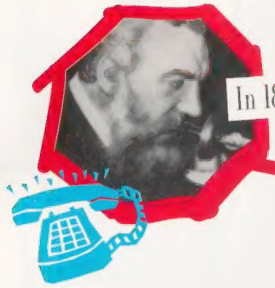
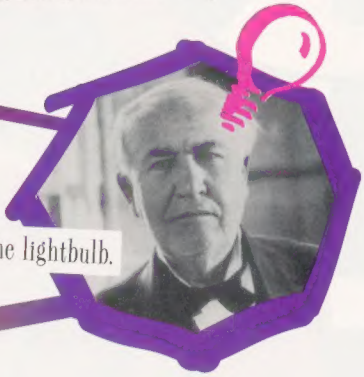
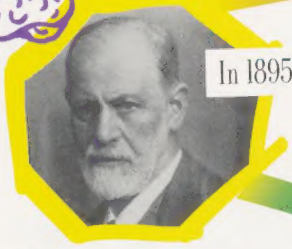


In 1876 **Alexander Graham Bell** created the telephone.



In 1879 **Thomas Edison** created the lightbulb.



In 1895 **Sigmund Freud** created Modern Psychiatry.

In 1994 **Gary and Wyatt** created a woman who would do anything they wanted.

Who do you think was smarter?

WEIRD SCIENCE

They DON'T teach it in school.

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USA NETWORK

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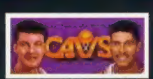

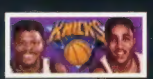

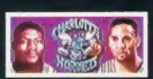

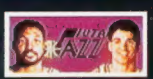

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